

## **REMARKS**

### ***Specification***

The objection to the disclosure is overcome by supplying the U.S. application serial numbers and corresponding patent numbers to replace the blank spaces in the application as originally filed. Entry of the amended paragraphs and removal of the objection is kindly requested.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102***

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6105909 (Wirth et al.). For reasons given below, applicant is confident that Wirth et al. does not anticipate or suggest the subject matter defined by claims 1-3.

Claim 1 requires "a device for applying a ***constant*** balancing force to said support arm through said cable pull to compensate for loading associated with said surgical microscope" (emphasis added). In the present invention, constant force is applied by the weight of a mass (for example AGb as shown in Figs. 5 and 6) connected to the cable pull, and the distance of the cable pull's action point from the rotational axis of the support arm is varied. In this way, the force exerted by the cable is constant, but the moment exerted about the axis of rotation changes depending upon loading conditions to achieve balancing.

By contrast, the spring 246 in Wirth et al. does not apply a constant force on support arm 9 through cable pull 248. The force exerted by spring 246 depends upon its spring constant (units of force per unit length) and the deflection of the spring. If there is no load on the spring, it will be undeflected and exert no counterbalancing force. The heavier the load, the more the spring will deflect and the greater the counterbalancing applied will be. In Wirth et al., the distance between the point of action of the cable pull on the support arm and the axis of rotation of the support arm remains constant, and the force applied is varied.

Thus, Wirth et al. lacks "a device for applying a ***constant*** balancing force ..." as set forth in claim 1. Wirth et al. relies on varying the force applied at a fixed distance from the axis of rotation, whereas in the present invention, the force applied remains constant and the location at which it is applied (distance from the axis of rotation) is varied.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Wirth et al. for the reason explained above for claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 1-3 and reinstatement of withdrawn claims 4, 6, 7, 13-23, and 25-35 is respectfully requested.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 8-12, and 24 is acknowledged with thanks.

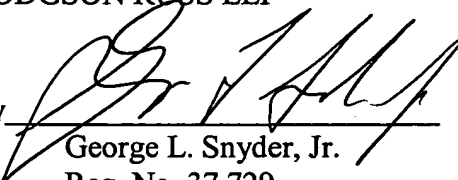
***Conclusion***

The present application is thought to be in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or the attorneys for applicant can assist in any way, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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